

# THE ASYLUM

*Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society*

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Volume IX, No. 2

Summer, 1991

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NEXT DEADLINE  
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ARCHEOLOGY & MEDIEVAL may be the currently accepted form but are not ARCHÆOLOGY & MEDIÆVAL far more evocative of the mystery and romance encompassed in the essence of these words? To our way of thinking, so is it with the word CATALOGUE. One may purchase widgets in a CATALOG, but a CATALOGUE promises more: the rare, the unusual, the unique. It is what George Frederick Kolbe Fine Numismatic Books is all about. Send for our next CATALOGUE and see if you do not agree. And ... if you spell it with an *u* and an *e*, it's free.

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## The Asylum

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## NBS news & notes

John F. Bergman, now past secretary, has provided an official notification that the candidates listed on the ballot enclosed in the spring issue of this magazine have been elected and are hereby installed:

### OFFICERS

President P. Scott Rubin  
Vice president Wayne K. Homren  
Secretary-treasurer Kenneth Lowe

### BOARD MEMBERS

Board member Armand Champa  
Board member Charles Davis  
Board member Joel J. Orosz  
Board member Jeffrey M. Peck  
Board member Michael J. Sullivan  
Board member Barry Tayman

Wayne Homren announces that there will be a regional NBS meeting during the 1991 Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists convention at the Embers Convention Center in Carlisle, Pennsylvania (25-27 October), to be held on Saturday. All NBS members in the area are requested to attend.

In addition, Vice-president Homren is soliciting pledges and donations to establish an ANA exhibit class for numismatic literature. Please send your donation or pledge to our treasurer, Ken Lowe, P.O. Box 43286, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143.

See the "President's page" for other scheduled meetings.

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## President's page

I wish to thank all the NBS members who voted for me for president. I hope to see many of you at this year's annual meeting, to be held during the ANA convention in Chicago in August. Our meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 15 August, at 1:00 pm. This will be a good chance for us to see some fellow members we know only by name. There will also be a round-table discussion on numismatic literature, that evening, at 7:30. This should really be a special convention I hope many of our members can make.

At the annual meeting I hope we shall have information about our attempt to endow an exhibition class for numismatic literature at ANA conventions. I shall also be looking for support for more regional NBS meetings. Please let me hear from all of you who are willing to be regional helpers.

There will be a regional meeting of NBS during the Garden State Numismatic Association this June in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, to take place on Saturday, 29 June. I shall be there and want to see as many of you fellow members as possible for an informal get together, naturally to talk literature.

This is a great time to be involved with numismatic literature. I recently received John Adams' volume about twentieth century numismatic auction companies. Like his nineteenth century volume, it is packed with information. The ANA is publishing two books for their centennial celebration. The first is a two volume history of the ANA by David Bowers, the second an anthology of new numismatic articles. There are many other new publications. On the auction scene, already this year we have had sales by catalogers (or cataloguers) George Kolbe, Charles Davis, The Money Tree, Katen, Orville Grady, and Function Associates. I hope I haven't left anyone out. Once upon a time there were only Katen's three sales a year to look forward to; now there are multiple sales to treat us every other month or so.

I hope to see you in Chicago!

*P. Scott Rubin*



## Guest editorial

TO SHARE and promote our specialty within the numismatic community I propose that we endow an ANA exhibit class for numismatic literature. Here's a quick summary of ANA exhibiting: competitive exhibits are divided into twenty one classes, including U.S coins, U.S. paper money, ancient foreign coins, modern foreign coins, error coins, love tokens, etc. The reason for the various classes is to avoid comparing apples with oranges. There are first, second, and third place prizes in each class. Winners receive suitable awards and all competitive exhibitors receive a participation medal, a banquet ticket, and a photo ID for access to the exhibit area and the security room.

Numismatic literature has been exhibited in the past, usually in the General or Specialized class. One example is Bob Wester's spectacular exhibit of Sylvester Crosby's books and memorabilia at the 1982 Boston convention. This year Armand Champa will be exhibiting parts of his fabulous library, in the non-competitive category.

If an exclusive class were established for numismatic literature, I believe more people would be encouraged to exhibit their material, enabling bibliophiles to show off their treasures to the numismatic community and promote the collecting of literature. To pay the expenses involved the ANA requires that an endowment (currently three thousand dollars) be established for the new class. The most recently added class is Primitive Money; the funds were raised by The Society of Primitive Money Collectors. I believe that it is appropriate for the members of the NBS to endow a class for our specialty. I also believe that the money should not come from our treasury but instead should be raised from interested individuals who would like to play a part in making this happen. My goal is to raise the money by the end of our annual meeting at the Centennial ANA Convention in Chicago this summer. I hope to have a few items to donate for a fund-raising auction and will pass the hat. I've spoken to several members about the idea; all are enthusiastic and some have already pledged donations. Please consider contributing to this effort and help create an outlet for promoting our hobby during ANA's next hundred years.

Wayne K. Homren

## Books about U.S. silver and gold coins prior to 1837 and pioneer and territorial gold

by Jeff Rock

*This is the fourth and final part of Jeff's current bibliography.*

Rose, Joseph H. and Howard Hazelcorn, eds. *The comprehensive catalogue and encyclopedia of United States coins, second edition*. New York: Scott Publishing Co., 1975. xix, 363 pp., ill.

The first edition, edited by Don Taxay, is described below. This edition introduced a new coin numbering system, assigning sequential numbers to the coins, much the same as in stamp catalogs. Although this has never caught on, much the same thing has been done in Breen's Encyclopedia, to which refer. More difficult to find than the first edition. Copies usually fetch around \$25.

Rust, Alvin E. *Mormon and Utah coin and currency*. Salt Lake City, 1984. 247 pp., ill.

A thorough look at the issues of the Church of Latter Day Saints as well as contemporary issues in the area now Utah. The gold issues are described in great detail. A few of the pieces of paper money described are counterfeits produced by the infamous Mark Hoffman, who forged numerous church documents and was responsible for the two pipe-bomb murders that rocked the church. A well-written book, obviously a labor of love. Copies are available for around \$35.

Schwartz, Ted. *A history of United States coinage*. San Diego, 1980. 404 pp., ill.

A general reference book, this deals with almost all aspects of U.S. coinage, although no one subject is treated in great detail. Another good background book. Generally available or under \$20.

Smith, Andrew Madsen. *Coins and coinage: the United States mint, Philadelphia; history, biography, statistics, work, machinery, products, officials*. Philadelphia, 1881. 120 pp., line cuts and woodcuts, frontispiece of A. Loudon Snowden.

Excellent background reading, covering much the same territory as George Evans' work listed above. The ordinary issue sells for about \$30; the deluxe issue on heavy paper has brought \$125. In 1884 a second edition was prepared, shortened to 105 pages and with a frontispiece of the then superintendent of the mint, Daniel M. Fox. That sells for around \$30. The third edition, published in 1885 and 107 pages long, has brought \$35.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Visitor's guide and history of the United States mint*. Philadelphia, 1885. 175 pp., ill.

A completely rewritten and expanded version of the above book. Although this version contains much the same information as the George Evans book described earlier it is no match for the genius of Evans' promotional campaigns. Very scarce. Copies have sold for \$150 and up.

Snowden, James Ross. *A description of ancient and modern coins in the cabinet collection at the mint of the United States*. Philadelphia, 1860. 412 pp., 27 plates printed with metallic inks.

Informative background reading, with slightly more thorough descriptions of some of the U.S. issues than Comparette's book (which was issued half a century later). Fairly scarce. Copies generally sell for \$100-\$150.

Society of California Pioneers. *Catalogue of gold, silver, copper, brass, bronze and porcelain coins and medals, known for many years as the Dr. Spires' collection, and now belonging to the Society of California Pioneers*. San Francisco, 1877. 150 pp.

A descriptive listing of the coins then in the collection of the society, including several pioneer gold issues. As in most catalogs of the time, the descriptions are occasionally quite sparse, but it's easy to see that quite a few important coins were once in this collection. Copies of this book usually bring \$75 or so. In 1909 a second edition was published, 153 pages long, which describes the same coins, along with the additional pieces since acquired, including the large collection of C.T. Ward, Jr. The second edition is quite rare and in high demand. The only auction record I have for that edition is \$190.

Spring, Agnes Wright. *The First National Bank of Denver: the formative years, 1860-1865*. Denver, 1963. 46 pp., ill. 4 color plates.

This volume, which was written with the assistance of the Bank, provides the most complete history of Clark, Gruber & Co. that has been published. The illustrations and thorough descriptions make this a must-have volume for every serious collector of pioneer gold. Copies are available for around \$30. A ten page excerpt was published in The numismatist Vol. 80, No.6 (1967), pp. 691-701.

Steigerwalt, Charles. *Illustrated history of United States and colonial coins*. Lancaster, 1884. 40 pp., line cuts.

A very scarce book which gives thorough descriptions of most U.S. and colonial issues. Although quite well written, with an abundance of information, it remains unknown to most collectors, possibly because only a small number of copies have survived. The only recent auction appearances have been of a disbound reading copy at over \$125 and a better preserved copy at \$200.

Stewart, Frank H. *History of the first United States mint, its people and its operations*. Privately printed, 1924. 209 pp., ill.

Well written. Many of the illustrations are of the demolition of the first U.S. mint, which Stewart's electrical company owned. Very scarce, most copies having been destroyed in a fire. This book has sold for \$50 to \$100. The reprint issued by Quarterman in 1974 can be found for around \$30.

Taxay, Don. *Counterfeit, mis-struck and unofficial U.S. coins*. New York: Arco Publishing Co., 1963. 221 pp., ill.



A great piece of numismatic literature, giving details on minting techniques, counterfeiting, alterations, famous forgeries, and a section on mint errors. Not difficult to locate; copies can be had for around \$10. In 1976 it was reissued in soft covers with the text unchanged. The softcover issue seems a bit tougher to find, though it seldom brings more than \$5.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The U.S. mint and coinage: an illustrated history from 1776 to the present.* New York: Arco Publishing Co., 1966. 400 pp., ill.

One of the best all-around works on numismatics written in the last quarter century. Gives a wealth of information about the establishment of the first mint, the second Philadelphia mint, and the present mint. A forward by Gilroy Roberts, then chief engraver, is included. Required reading for every serious numismatist. Copies are quite scarce and have consistently sold for \$30 or \$35. The low-quality reprint issued by Durst of New York in 1984 is still available for around \$25.

\_\_\_\_\_, ed. *Scott's comprehensive catalogue and encyclopedia of U.S. coins.* New York: Scott Publishing Co., 1970. 397 pp., ill.

A worthy predecessor to Walter Breen's Encyclopedia, this book was written from the extensive notes made by Breen in the late 1960's. It is a well written work, describing and illustrating colonials, regular U.S. issues, patterns, proofs, branch mint proofs, off-metal strikes, fantasy coins, replicas, and private gold coins. Although the rarity and pricing information is now obsolete the book presents a wealth of information and is well worth the \$15 or so it usually commands. The second edition was edited by Joseph Rose and Howard Hazelcorn and has already been listed.

Thompson, Walter. *How United States coins are made.* 1962. 48 pp., ill.

Reprinted from The numismatic scrapbook, this gives a short history of the early mints and a fairly thorough view of present engraving and striking methods, though not in the detail of Breen's Dies and coinage described earlier. Readily available at under \$5.

Valentine, Daniel Webster. *The United States half dimes.* New York: American Numismatic Society, 1931. 79 pp., 47 plates.

This standard reference, No. 48 of the society's Numismatic Notes and Monographs, includes historical and die information. Quite scarce, as are all early ANS publications, it has sold for as high as \$125. The Quarterman reprint issued in 1975 has been extended to 273 pages by the addition of Walter Breen's 1958 United States half dimes: a supplement; Harold P. Newlin's 1883 A classification of the early half dimes of the United States..; Will W. Neil's The United States half dimes from 1829 through 1873 and Addenda to list of United States half dimes, which appeared in the August and December of 1927 issues of The numismatist; along with previously unpublished listings of new varieties by David J. Davis and additional observations and a price guide by Kamal Ahwash. The Quarterman reprint, which is of high quality, is now out of print and usually sells for \$40 or more.

Watson, David K. *History of American coinage*. New York, 1899. 274 pp.

This book deals mainly with numismatic legislation; it makes good background reading. The fairly scarce copies have generally sold for around \$75. The second edition ("Revised and Enlarged") was also issued in 1899. It is available for around \$50. The 1970 reprint (New York: Burt Franklin Press), although quite scarce, generally sells for around \$30.

Wilson, Neil C. *400 California Street: the story of the Bank of California...* San Francisco, 1964. 87 pp., ill.

Still the standard reference on the Bank of California and the role it played in the local finances. Of great interest to both the numismatist and the general history buff. Copies can be found for \$30.

Yeoman, Richard S. *A guide book of United States coins: catalog and price list 1616 to date*. Racine: Whitman Publishing Co., 1947. Ill.



Numerous editions since the first. What better way to end this listing than with one of the first books purchased by most U.S. collectors? Although there are always complaints about out-dated prices, incomplete information, and omissions, the redbook is still the most popular pocket-sized reference available in numismatics. Prices range from under \$1 for some editions to over \$300 for the first. For anyone contemplating owning condition rarities in numismatic literature I note the sale of a mint example of the first edition for \$2500, though none of the grading services has offered to slab it as of yet. The third, fourth, and fifth editions seem to be the hardest to find in nice condition, though the

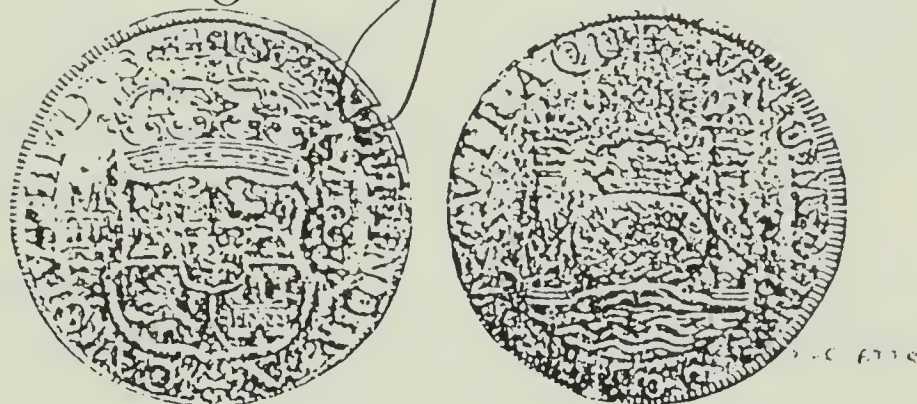
supply still seems large enough to cover the demand.

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What will become the pride of some lucky bibliomaniac is the first copy of the first edition of the **redbook**, to be sold in the Bowers and Merena auction to be held during the ANA convention in Chicago in August. In a 1982 letter which now accompanies the book Yeoman stated, "Stuart Mosher [to whom the book is inscribed] was editor of *The Numismatist* at the time and later became Curator of Numismatics at the Smithsonian Institution. We were very good friends, and during this period he was a great help to me in perfecting historical and technical data when I was putting the Red Book together for its initial publication. I unhesitatingly inscribed the first copy to him as grateful recognition of his generous and invaluable contributions to the catalogue."

Copy No. 1 Nov. 4, 1946  
 To my faithful friend, Stuart Mosher

R. H. Gosman



### THE SPANISH MILLED DOLLAR

*The Coin of Our Nation's Founders*

The Spanish milled dollar otherwise known as the "pillar dollar" and "piece of eight" has been given a place in romantic fiction unequalled by any other coin.

This time-honored piece was the chief coin of the American colonists and actually was the forerunner of our own silver dollar. It had become so fundamentally a part of the everyday course of business during the colonial period that its official adoption as the standard unit of value for United States money was a natural and desirable development.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

A. E. Bebee  
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 Max M. Schwartz  
 Farran Zerbe



## A sixteenth century coin collector and his book

by David Block

*Reprinted with permission from the NI Bulletin of November 1974, vol.8, no.11.*

Early numismatic books are closed to most collectors in this country because of their rarity and because of the languages in which they are written. The present translation of the dedication and part of the preface of an early French book on Roman coins will be found interesting as showing us a French collector of four centuries ago condemning coin investors and apologizing for himself spending more time and money than he should on coins.

Antoine Le Pois was born in Nancy in 1525. His father, who was apothecary to the duke of Lorraine, sent Antoine to Paris to be educated. After studying medicine under Jacque [sic] Dubois, Antoine returned to Nancy to become the resident physician to Duke Charles III. We may assume that the duties of the resident physician were light and remunerative, because he had the time and money necessary to form and study a collection of Roman coins and engraved gems, as well as to write a book about them. M Le Pois was a one book man and died a year before that one was published. The fate of his collection seems not to be known.

Here is the full title of the book in French:

DISCOVRS SVR LES MEDAILLES ET/ GRAVEURES ANTI-/ques,  
principalement/ Romaines./ Plus, une Exposition particuliere de quelques  
planches ou tables/ estans sur la fin de ce liure, esquelles sont monstrees/  
diuerses Medailles & graueurs anti-/ques, rares & exquises./ Par M. ANTOINE  
LE POIS, Conseiller & Medicin/ de Monseigneur le Duc de Lorraine./  
[Stephanus NOLI ALTUM SAPERE SED TIME emblem]/ A Paris,/ Par  
Mamert Patisson Imprimeur du Roy,/ au logis de Robert Estienne./  
M.D.LXXIX./ AVEC PRIVILEGE.

A quarto with pages 15.5 x 22 cm., the book contains about three hundred pages and contains several woodcuts in the text as well as the twenty etched plates at the end, the latter done by Pierre Woeiriot, a goldsmith and engraver of some note. Although the book is considered rare, copies may be found in

the Library of Congress, the British Library, and elsewhere. Humphrey refers to du Pois alias Le Pois several times in his *Coin collector's manual*.

The French in which the book is written is not literary; in places it is so bad that an expert in seventeenth century French finds it difficult to believe that Le Pois was French. But I suppose that to many Frenchmen anyone born in Nancy would be a foreigner. At any rate, I thank Professor Claude Abraham for his help in some thorny places, while absolving him from blame for the errors I have made in places where I failed to consult him.

**A Discourse on Coynes and Antient Engraued Gems, mainly Roman, plus a detailed exposition of certain plates or tables placed at the end of this book, in which are shewn various coyne and engraued gems which are rare and exquisite, by M. Antoine le Pois, Councillor, and Physician to My Lord the Duke of Lorraine. Paris: Mamert Patisson, mdcxxix.**

To the very high and very powerful Prince Charles, Duke of Lorraine, &c. My Lord, it has come about to my brother, Master Antoine le Pois, your physician and your very humble servant, has died before he could put the finishing touches on the Discourse which he had written on coyne and antient engraued gems, although hardly any thing remained to be done except to decorate it with an epistle and to present it to Your Highness, to whom from the beginning he devoted and dedicated it. What he could not achieve was the satisfaction and rewards he hoped for from the great labour he engaged in for this work, about which I shall say that although it seems small in appearance, it is completely exquisite and of great value, as those who have knowledge of antiquity can judge, and they will see many rare and singular things well explained and brought into the light which the injury of time has obscured and, as it were, wound in a shroud. What inspired him to write this discourse and the series of remarks which he has made and elaborated on an infinite of coyne which had passed through his hands was that he was aware that Your Highness and that of your late Lady (the honour of the Princesses of this century) took great pleasure in antient coyne; even as you wished to have those of the late Master Claude Cheuenin, Prior of Saint Nicholas, beautiful and numerous, and

researched for him at great expence, as well in Italy as in other foreign countries. for & understanding of these & author proposed to offer Your Highness this Discourse, written in French although it would have bene much simpler and easier for him to write it in Latin. for havinge gathered it from & best Greek and Latin authors, he could have used their diction and more properly expressed their meanings without translatynge them into another language. Anyway, & labour and travail he employed in this book were very agreeable to him, as much for & contentment and pleasure which you, My Lord, may take (as also My Lady would have taken if it had pleased God to grant her a longer life) as also for havinge bene invited to it by & liberality of Your Highness, by which he was pleased to defray part of & expences which were incurred for & engravinge of & tables and plates of & said coynes, which will be found to be much more beautiful and neat than any which have bene seen up to & present.

Now, My Lord, this Work, such as it is, belongs of good right to you, and & author not havinge bene able to offer it to you, I have thought it to be my duty (seconded by Rene de la Huelle, his son-in-law, one of & Auditors of Accounts of Lorraine and Comptroller of your house) to present it to you and to beg very humbly & you agree & under your favour it pass into & hands of men who, because of & fruits they receive from it will be obliged to thank you and with us to beseech & Eternal to bless Your Highness and increase it with all honour and prosperity.

Preface, in which is treated & utilitie and & profit which come from & knowledge of coynes and antient engraved gems, as well as pleasure and delectacyon.

All of those things which please and recreate & spirit and bring at & same time profit and utility are commonly preferred and more valued by all men. Horace says & among & poets & one who has reached & goal and carried off & prize is he who has mixed utility with sweetness and delectacyon and who can at & same time both please and bringe profit to & reader. Not only in literature but in all other matters this is found to



be true, & is to say, & profit seasoned with pleasure and delight for every  
 reason content people much more than & one separated from & other.  
 Anyway, I shall contain myself in my limits and say only & & knowledge  
 and understanding of what is borne on and signified by coynes and  
 antient engraved gems, of which it is our intention to speak, beyng not  
 only full of great recreation and pleasure but also of great profit, as will  
 be shewn hereafter, haue made so satisfied and content certain learned men  
 of our times & they haue employed both a good sum of money in &  
 acquisition and recovery of all sorts of coynes and engraved gems and a  
 good deal of time in discoveryng on them and researchyng carefully and  
 perhaps too curiously what they portend to say and signify. For my part  
 I confesse, although I don't understand much and haue spent more time  
 than I should haue, considering my vocation, considering also & it  
 would haue bene much better to haue occupied myself with a careful and  
 diligent research of & Holy Scriptures, as we are commanded, and in  
 truth neither in this nor in many other such things can such great curiosity  
 be found good, unless by men who are themselves naturally curious. Now  
 & pleasure and delight which come from dealing with coynes and gems  
 very often transport people, makinge them forget their other businesses,  
 affairs, and duties, to & extent & I shall not speak here of a conetous and  
 gredie cupiditie to amass a great number and quantity of gold and siluer  
 coynes as gold and siluer, wishyng to condemn this as a manifest and  
 wholly noxious auarice. Because it is known & they ordinarily cost those  
 who are studious and louers of antiquity much more than they are worth,  
 and euen then ones of bronz and copper are sometimes sold at an excessive  
 price if you consider what material they are. This I know too well myself,  
 who once bought a coyne with an inscription of Scipio Africanus for four  
 ecus of gold, and its material would haue bene bought dearly for four  
 deniers tournois; add to & & opinion I haue & it might be counterfeit and  
 not really antient. I shall not mention here some of & gentlemen of our  
 time who haue bought them at an excessive price, as some haue declared  
 in writyng; such is our will and pleasure, exceedyng very often all  
 reason, as is euen more euident and apparent in regard to pearls and  
 pprecious stones, which are daily bought only to delight our eyes and are

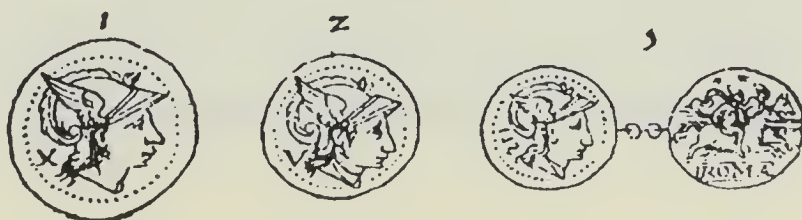
wor<sup>th</sup>, as they say, only & which one giues & merchants and vendors for them. On & contrary, there are many who don't think coynes are a big affaire and when they see them do not bother to pick them up from & ground, & ones which are a different metal than gold or silver (because they collect those for & value of & material they are composed of) and some euen find us strange to look unreasonably long, to handle and rehandle a coyne so many times, to study it for a long time and to dream ouer it, thinkynge all this labour vayne. But let it not displease them; educated men do not talk this way about it. For after hauynge considered them well, besides & often one recognizes there & hand of a particular workman and from this sees & antiquity had at times excellent souls and artisans, like painters, engrauers, and sculptors, statue makers and image carriers and others of whom I do not want to speak here, whose work giues shame to & workers of today, who freely admit them to be inimitable today; besides, I say, & graceful skill one often sees on & said coynes, & principal thyng is & from them you reach & knowledge not only of many epithets, words, and expressions peculiar and proper to antiquity, but also of many practical things from them. The same may be said of antient engrauid gems, of which I shall not speak now, referrynge & reader to what I shall write about them later. Al of what I haue said will be better understood from a few specific examples which I shall bynge up, speakynge only of coynes, because all of our present discourse will present them to & eye, and more than sufficiently.

first, as to & Latin words and expressions, & coynes teach us how many of them should be written, and sometimes differently than we write them today; indeed, we shall shew some which teach what certain Latin words and expressions signify and mean. The coyne of & Dictator Sylla, which you will see later on, calls him Sulla instead of Sylla, which is better than we say it. Another coyne of mine says Paullus for Paulus. Another Paula, not Paulla. Another Paulina, not Paullina. Another Iuno Sispita, for Sospita. Another Libertas, for Libertas. Another P<sup>r</sup>imus, for Primus; and Cerialia, for Cerealia; as antiently D was put for C in common writing; also noted H, as appears in & Epitaph of Confidius, which is at



Rome outside the Flaminian Gate, in the vineyard of Pope Julius, on which is read *Patrone BHAHHHHACTI*, for *Benemerenti*. *LIBHHHS* *POSTHHHSQVH* for *Liberis posterisque*, &c. The sixth coyne which we put on the plate marked *I* teaches us what *Consecratio* is (called by the Greeks *Apotheosis*) because such a coyne represents for us the funeral pyre and the tabernacle which were set up for deceased Roman emperors when one wanted to add them to and number them with their other gods, just as Herodian describes it, speaking of the Emperor *Seuerus*, in such a way that if one wanted to take the trouble to compare such a coyne with this passage of Herodian, one would understand much more easily what he wishes to say, which one cannot grasp without that. Which will be apparent from what we have quoted from the said Herodian when we display the said coyne later on. But who would think that so many graceful things, used and practiced by the ancients, have been brought to our awareness by the benefits and means of ancient coynes and engraved gems? They express to the life for us and shew to our eyes, now many kinds of temples, altars for sacrifice, various ensigns and ornaments of the Pontificate, vases and other instruments proper for sacrifice, now the Curule seat, reserved for the magistrates; the fasces and rods carried before the Consuls and Praetors; so many kinds of different arms; chariots with two, three, four horses; so many trophies and equestrian statues and others; so many instruments useful for war and to demolish fortresses, like the ram named *Aries*, an ancient machine to beat down walls and other enclosures, about which the ancient authors speak. The ancient coyne from *Cyrene* puts before our eyes the plant called *Silphium*, which is the *Laser* so celebrated by the ancients for its juice, called *Laserpitium*, which plant has not been seen since the time of the Emperor *Nero*, if we believe what *Pliny* wrote about it. I shall not speak about all the kinds of crowns which we have noticed on these coynes and gems....

Ω





## Why collect books about coins?

by Dr Joel J. Orosz

*The following article appeared in the May 1991 issue of The U.S. coin collector and is reprinted here by kind permission of the editor of that journal (Mr William Atkinson) and of Dr Orosz.*

WHEN Bill Atkinson asked me to write an article introducing NCCA members to numismatic bibliomania my first reaction was to reply, "No, thanks!" There are not many people who collect books about coins, maybe 3000 tops, and I *like* it that way. Prices for most books are low, dealers are honest, and there is not an investor in sight. Of course that is the way it used to be in the coin hobby too, before it mushroomed into the speculator-infested jungle that it has become today. So, to be honest, I welcome growth in my hobby with all the warmth I usually reserve for pestilence, running sores, and toxic waste.

Upon further reflection, however, I decided that growth *per se* is not the problem, it is growth among the greedy that spoiled numismatics. It struck me that the readers of *The U.S. Coin Collector* are by definition collectors, just the kind of people who would be welcome additions to any hobby. No self-respecting investor would read such a publication; indeed, it seems that few of them read any sentence that does not end with an exclamation mark, so there is no danger that pitching my hobby in this forum will lead to investment grade or generic books tomorrow. So I decided to write this article. But please, I beg of you, if a market maker approaches eat this article!

Why collect numismatic literature? I give you seven reasons:

1. Bibliomania is purely for collectors. As far as I know there is not one person in the world who invests in books about coins. Everyone who buys and trades in this market is a pure and simple collector. In fact, bibliomania today reminds me very much of the golden age of coin collecting in the late nineteenth century; today as then there are a few thousand book collectors and a handful of respected dealers, with a true sense of fraternity among them. Admittedly the brothers sometimes squabble, as in any fraternity, but generally we form an extended family held together by our love for books.

2. Grading is not a big deal. Oh, we care whether or not a book is pristine, but its condition rarely has much impact on its market value. Can you imagine being in a hobby in which a microscopic scratch that you didn't notice doesn't make your purchase worth half of what you just paid for it? Imagine being part of a hobby where there are at most seven grades! However, we have never felt the need to set up a formal grading system! Imagine being able to grade all by your own little self, not having to pay a service to tell you how your book rates! Imagine, if you can, a hobby without a single slab! Is this paradise, or what?

3. Great rarities are available cheap. At one time or another we all have lusted after the great coin rarities, those which have fewer than fifty surviving examples. Our lust must go unrequited, however, because great rarities command great prices. Unless you can afford blithely parting with thousands upon thousands of dollars, the closest you will ever come to these coins is the display area of a major numismatic convention. And if you want to own the *creme de la creme*, say a Brasher doubloon or an 1822 half eagle, you had better qualify for a place in the Forbes list of America's wealthiest people. While it is true that there are several numismatic books and catalogs for which you will have to pay thousands, large plated Chapman catalogs for instance, there are rarities by the dozen that are dirt-cheap. I have several books in my library that have survived in very limited numbers but for which I paid less than fifty dollars. There is also the thrill of the chase: sets of periodicals and catalogs can be assembled without great expense. Not only is it fun to chase down full sets piece by piece; completion results in a splendid collection. Diligence and good judgment make it possible to build a world-class numismatic library with relatively modest means.

4. Literature dealers are honest. Breathes there a coin collector of any experience who has not been had by an unscrupulous dealer? Back when I was a coin collector I took my share of baths. Granted, the majority of coin dealers are ethical business people, but that is cold comfort when you have been swindled by one of the unsavory ones. It will amaze you, but in nearly ten years of active buying from a dozen numismatic literature dealers, amounting to hundreds of transactions, I have never, not once, been cheated. Sure, I have disagreed with the grading from time to time, but since grading has very little

effect on price, that really does not matter. In virtually every case I have received items exactly as described and got every penny of my money's worth.

5. Today we are in the golden age of collecting numismatic literature. In the late nineteenth century only a few thousand people in the United States were coin collectors. Prices were low, rarities were within reach, and the hobby was uncontaminated by speculators. A handful of dealers served their brethren and they were personally known to the collectors. Dealers and collectors alike tended to be well-informed and frequently disputed points with each other in a lively manner. For coin collectors that era is as dead as last week's chart-busting pop record, but it lives on in the field of numismatic literature.

6. Treasures abound in the trash. With rare exceptions the only way to get a collectible coin today is to buy it, usually at a hefty mark-up. Collectible books about coins, however, can often be found for five dollars or less at second-hand bookstores, fund-raising book sales, even garage sales and flea markets. I haunt such venues, both in my home town and on my travels. While I quite often come up empty handed, occasionally I discover real bargains. For example, I acquired a like new copy of the 1980 Red Book from a library book sale, paying thirty three cents for a volume that had a fair market value of fifteen dollars. Even when my searching yields nothing I have the fun of the quest. To put it in numismatic terms, you can still find lots of collectible books in circulation.

7. The Numismatic Bibliomania Society. Have I got a deal for you! For a mere fifteen simoleons you can become a member of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (NBS), a group of collectors who are, as the name suggests, crazy about coin books. The most visible benefit of membership is *The Asylum*, a four-times-a-year journal featuring lively articles about coin books, catalogs, periodicals, and ephemeral pieces like price lists, brochures, and flyers. Although there have been serious coin collectors in the our land since the seventeen sixties and publications about coins since the eighteen forties, it was not until the nineteen sixties that a significant number of people began to collect the literature; therefore there is still much undiscovered, and *The Asylum* is the place to learn more about these discoveries-- or to contribute things you have learned.



Another benefit of NBS membership is the annual meeting, held at each annual ANA convention. An evening is given over to a speaker, a spirited question-and-answer period, and the all-important expedition to local eateries afterwards. These get-togethers are wonderfully educational and give members a chance to meet the likes of NBS colleagues Dave Bowers, Eric Newman, and Walter Breen. This is not the only chance to congregate; meetings are also held from time to time at regional coin conventions.

These seven reasons should be enough for anyone to start collecting books about coins. As you get into it you will soon find that numismatic bibliomania separates the men from the boys. Since it is purely a hobby, no investment angle whatsoever, there is no way you can do it and claim to be a collector-investor. There seem to be thousands of coin collectors who claim to be such unholy hybrids. This is absolute nonsense. Either you collect something because you like it, or you invest because you want to make a profit. It is impossible to do both. With numismatic books there's only one way, the collector's way. So the door is open for all you real collectors out there. Write to the numismatic literature dealers listed in issue 4 of *The U.S. Coin Collector* and get on their mailing lists. Bidding is simple; the dealers even provide a handy estimate for each lot, so you don't have to learn the hard way. Join the NBS, begin looking for books around your community and start having fun. I guarantee you'll never regret it.      Ω

## A checklist of numismatic fiction by Forrest Daniel

THE day after the autumn issue of *The Asylum* arrived, with Joel Orosz's item about Raymond Chandler's *High window* and his challenge for a bibliography of fiction with a numismatic theme I found a copy of that book on a bargain counter. I have re-read my shelf of such fiction and made up a list. A few may be thin on numismatic content, but so are many of the items in my collection. I have several novels about banking, gold and silver dealing, and related subjects, by Paul Erdman and others which can be read with appreciation by collectors. They have not been included in the following list.

Basile Aleksandri. *Istoriya odnogo zolotogo*. Kihinev: Izdatelbstvo Lumina, 1971.

The adventures of a gold coin. Juvenile.

Lionel Black. *The penny murders*. New York: Avon Books, 1980.

Prominent collector murdered after coin auction in London. Reporter looks for missing coins: English pennies dated 1933 and 1954 and Edward III thrupeny bit.

James P. Blaylock. *The last coin*. Ace Books, 1988.

The person who gathers all the thirty pieces of silver of Judas Iscariot will gain incalculable power to control the world-- the coins must be kept apart. Pennyman has all but the last one, and it's a curious heirloom of a zany, practical-joking innkeeper. Pennyman is a lodger at the inn. Fantasy.

Lawrence Block. *The burglar who studied Spinoza*. Pocket Books, 1982.

Bookseller/thief steals a 1913 V nickel.

Raymond Chandler. *The high window*. Vintage Books, 1976.

Philip Marlow and a Brasher doubloon.

Raymond Chandler. "No crime in the mountains" in *Killer in the rain*. Ballantine Books, 1983.

On the trail of counterfeit notes. Nazi smuggling.

Manning Coles. *Not negotiable*. Berkley Medallion Books, 1964.

French and British police after pushers of Nazi counterfeit coins.

John Creasy. *Follow the Toff*. Prestige Books, 1961.

While tracing a passer of counterfeit paper money the Hon. Richard Rollison, the Toff, encounters an international counterfeiting ring with an artists' agent as a front. Murder is a supplemental industry.

Martin Davies. *The gold machine*. Pinnacle Books, 1979.

The Beirut counterfeiter produces gold coins for the numismatic and bullion trade. He arranges the theft and replication of a four million dollar collection.

Franklin W. Dixon. *The melted coins*. Grosset & Dunlap, 1944.

The Hardy Boys look for buried treasure, counterfeit coins, and stolen coin collections. Juvenile.

Jack Finney. *The Woodrow Wilson Dime*. Simon and Schuster, 1968.

The Woodrow Wilson dime is the passport to a parallel world. Sci Fi.

Jonathan Gash. *Gold by gemini*. Penguin Books, 1988.

After a collection of British-Roman coins is stolen from a museum, antiques dealer Lovejoy learns the donor knew of a hoard dating to the Gemini legion and Suetonius and goes after it. Much about the antiques business.

O. Henry. "One dollar's worth" in *The complete works of O. Henry*. Garden City Publishing Company Inc., 1937.

The evidence in a counterfeiting case disappears in an unusual manner.

— \_\_\_\_\_. "The tale of a tainted tenner" in *The complete works*.

A ten dollar treasury note, series of 1901, in conversation with bills of other denominations, tells of travels and experiences in New York City and how it became tainted money. Some numismatic snapshots as well.

— \_\_\_\_\_. "Two renegades" in *The complete works*.

The Confederate States of America comes to the aid of a Union veteran in a Central American revolution.

Herman Melville. Chapter 45 of *The confidence-man*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston Inc., 1964.

In many guises the confidence man appears to passengers on a Mississippi riverboat, playing on their weaknesses, gullibility, and prejudices. Here a man compares a well-worn banknote to a bank note detector description and is dismayed.

Albert F. Nussbaum. "The counterfeit conman" in *Tricks and treats*, eds. Joe Gores and Bill Pronzini. The Crime Club, 1976.

A modern switch on the green goods swindle.

Gerald Petievich. *Money men*. Pinnacle Books, 1982.

Secret service agent Charles Carr on the bloody trail of a con-man counterfeiter with a killer associate who leaves no witnesses.

\_\_\_\_\_. *One-shot deal*. Pinnacle Books, 1983.

Agent Carr investigates the disappearance of currency paper from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and discovers a plate for printing \$100,000 Treasury bills.

Keith Robertson. *The money machine*. Tempo Books, 1971.

Teen-age detectives lead secret service to paper money counterfeiters. Juvenile.

Norm Rudman and Ernie Sheldon. *Dirty money*. Paperback Library, 1972.

Explicit sexual odyssey of the BEP engraver who engraved erotic drawings on U.S. \$5 plates. The bills went into circulation.

Richard Sapir and Warren Murphy. *Funny money*. Pinnacle Books, 1975.

Martial arts master Remo Williams challenges an android counterfeiter which produces perfect Federal Reserve notes.



Stephan Sheppard. *The four hundred*. Summit Books, 1979.

In 1873 four Americans led by George and Austin Bidwell used well forged documents to bilk the Bank of England out of £400,000. A novel based on an actual event. (George Bidwell told the story in his own book, *Bidwell's travels from Wall Street to London Prison*. Hartford, 1897.)

Richard Stark, a.k.a. Donald E. Westlake. *The rare coin score*. Fawcett Publications, 1967.

A professional thief knocks off a coin convention.

George Wyatt. *The case of the counterfeit coin*. Golden Press, 1960.

Buried treasure, stolen coin collections, and teen-age detective Brains Benton using infra-red photography to apprehend counterfeiters of ancient Greek coins. Juvenile.

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## The printer's devil

by Joel Orosz

It is time once more for the bestowing of the least coveted awards in numismatics, the notorious Shammies. For the second year running the Academy of Wretched Excess in Numismatic Advertisement, also known as your humble columnist, served as sole judge for these citations, which celebrate excellence in the employment of hyperbole to increase sales. The academy has noticed a decrease in the quality of this year's winners, a fact no doubt attributable to the collapse of the coin investment market in the second half of 1990. This crash beggared legions of speculators and bankrupted many investor-oriented dealerships and grading services and was, in my opinion, an all-around good thing. Enough introduction-- the envelopes, please!

**The Neatest Trick of the Year Award** goes to the Pobjoy Mint Ltd of Sutton, U.K., which has at last found a way to increase the amount of the profit from buying the twenty ounce Angel-- after all, it is "America's fastest growing Gold Bullion coin".

*Coin World*, 20 Feb. 1991, p 20

**The Just What We Needed, Another Meaningless Grade Award** goes to the American Rare Coin Fund L.P. of Beverly Hills for shilling "United States Coins of Museum Quality for the Serious Collector and Investor". One can only wonder if these coins are merely museum quality or if they are museum quality PQ.

*Coin World*, 20 Feb. 1991, p 31

**The History is Bunk Award** goes to Mount Vernon Coin Company of Annandale for the following piece of revisionist history: "One hundred years ago, the American Numismatic Association was founded, bringing together coin enthusiasts of all ages. The Silver Dollar in use then was the Morgan, perhaps the most beautiful coin ever minted, and certainly an inspiration to the new ANA members of 1891". History, of course, records that most numismatists at the close of the nineteenth century considered the coin an aesthetic travesty. The eagle on the reverse was derisively compared to a turkey, and the cartwheel was nicknamed the Bland dollar, a pun upon its design and its congressional champion.

*Coin World*, 20 Feb. 1991, p 111

**The Unintentional Candor Award** goes to Coast to Coast Coins of Fulton for an ad published in the midst of the great market crash of 1990. It said, "Hold on to your hats, the market's on the move!" This line is illustrated by a picture of a rollercoaster—going downhill! *Numismatic News*, 11 Sept. 1990

**The I Have Also Perfected a Perpetual Motion Machine Award** goes to CompuGrade of Metairie, Louisiana for their introduction of a computer that can do "more objective, consistent, repeatable grading" including such grades as MS 65.5, their tag line saying, "CompuGrade: Because to err is human." Hmm. I wonder if they know who designs, builds, and programs computers?

*Coin World*, 13 Feb. 1990, p 39

**The Profiteering From War by Tasteless Ridicule Award** goes to the Money Company of Tarzana for peddling a 0.999 silver bar titled "Iraqi Mobile Missile Launcher". The bar depicts a camel with a Scud missile in its mouth, about to have its testes crushed by a large mallet wielded by a berobed Iraqi. Be sure to strike a blow for taste and tolerance by buying one today.

*Numismatic News*, 1991 souvenir edition, p. 28

While we are on the subject, the ANA needs an **Ad Screener Award** goes to Paul Bosco of New York, who in an ad headed "Fantasy & Reality— you think you can distinguish them!" describes an English silver medal of Cromwell thus: "Reverse depicts Louis XIV performing oral sex on seated Britannia". Can a swim suit issue of *The Numismatist* be far behind?

*The Numismatist*, May 1990, p. 768

See lot #204 in the catalog of the Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge 24 May 1897 sale of the Montagu Collection of medals commemorative of British history. Only the

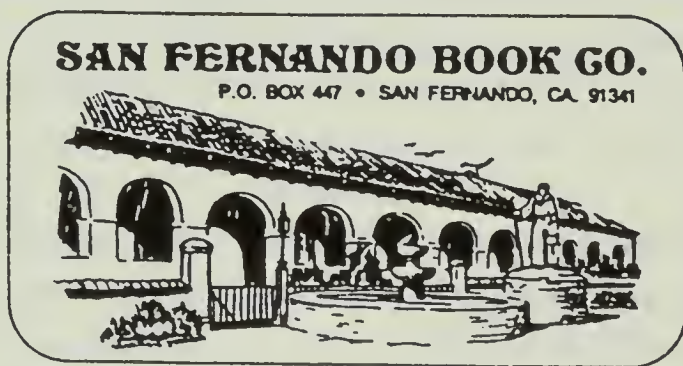
obverse, Captain General Oliver Cromwell, is illustrated on plate 1. The medal brought £30 10s. editor

**The Casey Stengel Award for Torture of the English Language** goes to Panda America of Torrance for their description of the Australian koala as "A unique animal and a unique investment". *Coin World*, 20 March 1991, p. 32

**The Noah Webster, Phone Your Office Award** goes to this year's only double winner, American Rare Coin Trading Group Inc. of Beverly Hills. This group, which is led by a former Smithsonian Institute curator, announces, "our approach to clients is discrete, entirely professional, and educational". They might begin by educating themselves about the difference between *discrete*, meaning *separate*, and *discreet*, meaning *prudent*. If their service really is discrete, it is indiscreet of them to admit it. *Coin World*, 20 Mar. 1991

**The Mother of All Markdowns Award** goes to the Ivy Press for its offer to sell a book titled *How to grade U.S. coins*, "A \$1 million value yours for only \$11.95". At savings of \$999,988.05 this shows that Feldman was right— you should buy the book before the coin! *Coin World*, 20 Mar. 1991, p. 32

The second presentation of the Shammies is now history. But please join us next year in this same space for Shammies III: the investors strike back!



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## Book review

by O.C.

JOHN W. Adams. *United States numismatic literature, Volume II, Twentieth century auction catalogs*. Crestline: George Frederick Kolbe Publications, 1990. 25 cm. 420 pages plus frontispiece and 21 plates. Pictorial end-papers.

Although with the publication on optical disk of *The Oxford English dictionary* it would seem that the death knell for the book as we know it has sounded, the appearance of volume two of John Adams' magnum opus, following volume one by eight or nine years, shows that dedicated bibliophiles have not yet succumbed to the insidious computer. The difficulties Mr Kolbe, the editor, surmounted in attempting to insure that volume two would be identical in make-up to volume one are largely unrecorded; he is to be congratulated for nearly succeeding.

Mr Adams is well-known to bibliomaniacs who collect U.S. auction catalogs because of his volume I, *Nineteenth century auction catalogs*. Volume II covers what Mr Adams calls the dark ages of U. S. auction catalogs, "a generation of catalogues designed to sell merchandise and then be discarded rather than to educate and be retained." Although the new volume focuses on the series of auction catalogs which began in the twentieth century, Adams has again been selective rather than attempting to be all-inclusive. Following the form of his first volume, he begins with a portrait and thumb-nail biography of each cataloger, along with a lightly annotated listing of his catalogs. Part two contains Adams' forte, grades for the contents of the catalogs. A researcher who wants to check auction listings for large cents can discover in short order which sales were graded A for large cents by Adams (although locating copies of the indicated catalogs is not so easy). Of course devotees of auction sales realize (or should) that prices realized lists must be taken with a grain of salt; it is not unknown to list a price for an item which was in fact bought back by the consignor or his agent. Then too, it would be immoral but reasonable for the auction house itself to make a higher bid for items it thought could be sold for more than any bidder offered.

Those of us who do numismatic research have a new tool available in the form of John W. Adams' latest book, *United States numismatic literature*, volume two. Like volume one, this book gives us information on selected numismatic auction firms, their history, and the sales they have created. This time around we are treated to twentieth century enterprises in the same manner we were their nineteenth century counterparts. While the book looks the same (this accomplished by the diligent efforts of its publisher, George Kolbe) except for size, this volume being longer, the tone of the comments about some of the firms is different. This may be because some of the people were still available for personal interviews. Whatever the case, the information about the individual firms is quite revealing. The grading of each sale is in the same format as in the first volume. The grades are from C- to A+; it is interesting to guess which sales would have received a lower rating if Mr Adams had decided to have grades starting with F.

## **ANA Governor Candidates**

*Please consider casting your ballot in favor of the following candidates for ANA officer and/or board member.*

### **Definitely merit your vote:**

Kenneth E. Bressett

Donn Pearlman

Edward C. Rochette, pres.

David Ganz, vp

John J. Pittman

Nancy Wilson

### **Good choices for your vote:**

John Eshbach

Kay E. Lenker

Ralph C. Langham

Richard R. Townsend

*I know personally the first group except for Bressett, and I know the others by reputation. All ten (for only nine seats) have integrity and experience in their favor, which is not to deny the same for virtually all other candidates, and I know those cited will work diligently for the ANA membership.*

**Paid for by Carling Gresham, ANA LM 1229**

*(A private appeal; not affiliated with any candidate)*

The amount of information about each sale's content is included at the back of the book, as before, and is probably the most useful chapter for the researcher. I should not forget to remind researchers that chronological and consignor indexes are also included in the back of the book.

The amazing thing about both of Mr Adams' volumes is that the information we take for granted reading these books took years of investigating all of the catalogs given grades. As I read this book I found numerous references to important sales I have overlooked during my years collecting auction catalogs. The Elder series information alone is enough to write a book about, and that is only one chapter.

The book is divided into two parts, "The cataloguers" and "Contents of the catalogues". Each part is divided into seventeen chapters, dealing with fifteen catalogers or firms, the ANA auctions (1907 to 1950), and thirty six miscellaneous sales. The fifteen catalogers are Ben Green, Thomas L. Elder, Geoffrey C. Adams, B. Max Mehl, Wayte Raymond, William Hesslein, M.H. Bolender, Barney Bluestone, Stack's, Kagin's, Hans M.F. Schulman, Abe Kosoff, New Netherlands, Frank Katen, and Michael Kolman, Jr. The miscellaneous chapter includes information on thirty six auctions conducted by sixteen different catalogers.

This 420 page book also contains photographs of the individuals mentioned. It is fun to see what some of the people we have read about for years looked like. I still see some of these people at coin shows, and this adds to my enjoyment of the book. I think anyone who collects U.S. numismatic auction catalogs or does numismatic research should rush to obtain this second volume by Mr Adams, and if you don't already own the first volume, what are you waiting for? Ω

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**Numismatic** book list. Books on coins, tokens, banking. New, used, scarce. R. Stockley, Box 64, Pierrefonds, Quebec, Canada H9H 4K8 (9.2)

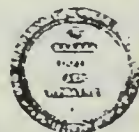
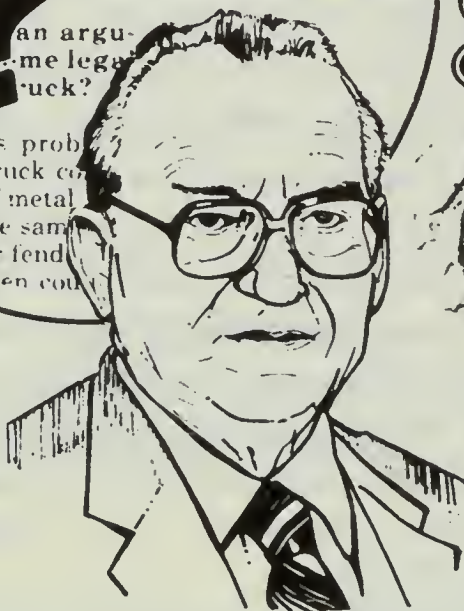


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...perplexing questions were answered in Alan Herbert's popular question/answer columns in the last ten years alone.

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### FEATURING

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*This sale will offer a variety of choice and rare material, featuring an 1875 Crosby, and an original copy of Ridell's Monograph of the Silver Dollar.*

*Also included will be rare and interesting material from the holdings of Hank Spangenberger, Wayne Homren, and Michael Sullivan.*

*The large format, extensively annotated, illustrated catalog is \$10 postpaid.*

*Yours friends,*

*Myron Xenos, NLG*

*Kenneth Lowe, NLG*



## **I WANT TO BUY FOR MY LIBRARY**

*I will purchase complete runs, duplicates, or single copies of the following periodicals:*

**Scott Coin Collectors Journals**

**Mason's Monthlies – Mason's Coin Journals**

**Steigerwalt Coin Journals – The Curios & Pricelists**

**Elder's Monthly – Elder Magazines**

**Numismatic Antiquarian of Philadelphia**

**Canadian Antiquarian Journals**

**Proceedings of the American Archaeological Society**

*Also Wanted*

**ANA memorabilia—photographs—early convention programs—photographs of famous numismatists.**

*Contact*

**ARMAND CHAMPA**

**P. O. Box 22316**

**Louisville, KY 40222**

## *One last time! Do it the American way!*

*It's gratifying to learn these advertisements are read; I refer to my ad in the last issue to which a courtly response may be found in this issue. The respondent, though, ignores my contention that catalog is the American way of spelling the English version.*

*Does he labour in his neighbour's house near the harbour because he's a bit off centre? Does he read a theatre programme, or a theater program? If he wears PJs, are they pajamas or pyjamas? Would he (Olympus, forbid!) plow a field, or plough it? I doubt he'd use those spellings for the sake of consistency. Any American using English spelling for just one word is faking it; there's no reason other than vanity (greed?) to use such spelling in America!*

*He claims "mystery and romance" for his usage, but I believe he means dollars and cents. I will agree that his version of a catalog "promises more;" more costs for clients, more profits for him. (Admitted, most of his catalog efforts are commendable.)*

*If "mystery and romance" are an excuse for copying the English, one might pursue the concept back to medieval [sic] days when a law required certain women to wear striped clothing to identify themselves when in public. Aha! Maybe he wears striped pyjamas!*

*As I don't spell catalog with ue, I can't get his free catalog; that's understandable, but heartbreaking for me and other non-uers.*

*Regardless of how you spell the word, you may receive without conditions my free catalogs; each is full of interesting paper widgets at sensible prices, and the next one will include many numismatic auction catalogs. Just send your name and address.*

*Carling's of Florida*

*P.O. Drawer 580A, Pomona Park FL 32181*

*(904) 649-9730*